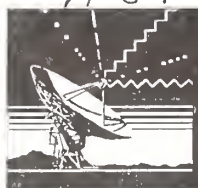


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2744

December 15, 1995

GLICKMAN COMMENTS ON WHEAT EXPORT RESTRICTIONS -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said, "The European Union's decision to restrict exports of wheat is unfortunate. Although this action by the EU might boost U.S. exports in the short term, it is not a policy the United States supports. Export restrictions distort normal trade flows and have extremely negative effects on importing countries, especially developing countries, by raising the cost of imports. Glickman added, "Experience has shown that export restrictions also can induce countries to implement subsidy programs at great cost to their economies in order to increase their own production. We believe export restrictions are inappropriate trade policy tools and are contrary to the spirit of the Uruguay Round agreement, which calls for freer access to both imports and exports." **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

SUPPORT TO FEED HUNGRY -- With millions of pounds of food being thrown away each year, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman urged the nation's restaurants, commercial kitchens, transportation sector and nonprofit groups to develop new partnerships to help bring this nutritious food to America's hungry. At a roundtable convened at the U.S. Department of Agriculture last week, Glickman pledged his support of food rescue and gleaning efforts as "one of my highest personal priorities as Secretary." The roundtable provided a forum for the public and private sectors to discuss their involvement in food recovery efforts and any barriers to these efforts. Through these discussions, USDA hopes to identify existing methods and new opportunities, promote increased efforts by both private and public sectors, and provide information on gleaning and food rescue efforts. **Contact: Johna Pierce (202) 720-4623.**

SPECIAL UPLAND COTTON QUOTA #15 RELEASED -- High cotton prices have triggered another special import quota that will permit the importation of a quantity of upland cotton equal to one week's domestic mill use, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced (December 7). The special import quota that will permit the importation of 43,657,604 kilograms (96,248,619 pounds) of upland cotton was established December 13. The quota applies to upland cotton purchased not later than March 11, 1996, and entered into the U.S. not later than June 9, 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. **Contact: Janise Zygmunt (202) 720-8841.**

FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION DOWN -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman credited continuing improvement in the nation's economy for reducing food stamp participation by nearly a million people a month in fiscal year 1995. Glickman said, "The average number of people receiving food stamp benefits each month in fiscal 1995 -- which ended September 30 -- was 26.6 million, compared to an average of 27.5 million in fiscal year 1994." The number of food stamp recipients has been lower in each of the last 14 months than it was for the same month in the previous year. This decline in participation has resulted in savings of nearly \$730 million since August 1994. **Contact: Murray Rapp (703) 305-2039.**

COTTON BOARD MEMBERS NAMED -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman appointed 13 members and 15 alternate members to the Cotton Board last week (December 7). The Cotton Board administers a national cotton research and promotion program. The board is authorized by the 1966 Cotton Research and Promotion Act and is comprised of 25 members and their alternates, representing both cotton producers and importers of products that contain cotton. A public member represents consumers. The appointees will serve 3-year terms ending December 31, 1998. Each cotton-producing state or region identified in the act has at least one member on the Cotton Board. Additional members are determined by the amount of cotton produced in excess of one million bales. Importers are allotted four positions based on the volume of cotton imports on which assessments are paid. The Cotton Research and Promotion Program advances the position of cotton in the marketplace. **Contact: Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998.**

MEMBERS NAMED TO SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced (December 7) 10 reappointments and 12 new appointments to the United Soybean Board. All will serve 3-year terms beginning December 1995. Glickman also announced four new appointments for alternates to the board. The Soybean Promotion, Research and Information Order provides for an alternate member for each state or region with only one member on the board. Alternates will serve terms that coincide with the terms of members from the state or region which they will represent. The board administers a program of soybean promotion and research to expand uses for soybeans and soybean products in domestic and foreign markets. Authorized by the 1990 Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, it has 59 members. Secretary Glickman selected the appointees from producers nominated by qualified state boards. **Contact: Gil High (202) 720-8998.**

BEEF PROMOTION BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has appointed (December 13) 20 new members and reappointed 20 members to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board. With the exception of one importer position filled for a two-year term due to a resignation, all members will serve 3-year terms beginning January 30, 1996. The board is composed of 107 members representing 37 states, three regions and importers. The Secretary of Agriculture selects appointees from cattle producers and importers nominated by organizations representing beef, dairy, veal and importer interests. Established under the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985, the board conducts a national program designed to improve the beef industry's position in the marketplace. Members of the initial board were appointed in 1986 to 1, 2 and 3-year terms. Each year, approximately one-third of the positions are filled for 3-year terms. **Contact: Alicia Ford (202) 720-8998.**

MEMBERSHIP INCREASED ON BEEF PROMOTION BOARD -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase membership on the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board from 107 to 111. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Administrator Lon Hatamiya said, "The increases are based on requirements of the 1986 Beef Promotion and Research Order, which is authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985." Domestic cattle producer representation on the board will increase from 101 to 104, while importer representation will increase from six to seven. Iowa and Ohio will each lose one board member while Missouri, Montana, South Dakota, and the importer unit of the board will each gain one. Texas will gain two members. The increase is the result of changes in cattle inventories and in cattle and beef imports since the board was reapportioned in 1993. **Contact: Becky Unkenholz (202) 720-8998.**

Edited by Leslie Parker

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA # 2011 -- Wildlife populations are exploding in many suburban areas. But none more so than the geese. At first, geese were welcomed into neighborhoods, but now they are causing lots of problems. Gary Crawford describes what happens when good geese go bad. **(Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).**

CONSUMER TIME # 1490 -- When good geese go bad. New consumer products. Downsizing means charging less now. The business and care of poinsettias. An afterlife for Christmas trees? **(Weekly cassette -- consumer features).**

AGRITAPE # 2003 -- Mexican vegetable surges. Nervous about short supplies. Happy holidays for livestock producers. The curse of high cotton prices. International Agricultural Marketing Congress. **(Weekly cassette -- news features).**

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Friday, December 22, livestock, dairy and poultry outlook and the Santa Claus weather report. Wednesday, December 28, world tobacco trade. Tuesday, January 2, world horticultural trade and U.S. export opportunities. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carry many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES: Lynn Wyvill reports on Washington state students who are working with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to learn how they can protect our natural resources. It's part of a national volunteer program called the Earth Team.

ACTUALITIES: USDA World Board Chairman Gerald Bange reports the latest USDA supply and demand outlook for wheat, corn, soybeans and cotton. Wheat stocks are tight, estimates of corn exports are up, soybean demand is strong, and cotton production estimates are down.

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS: Thursdays at 3:45-4:00 p.m. ET on Telstar 303, Transponder 5H(horizontal), Channel 10, Downlink Frequency 3900 MHz, Audio, 6.2/6.8.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry A. Quinn, (202)720-6072, or write to: Room 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1380. Internet E-mail: LQUINN @USDA.GOV.

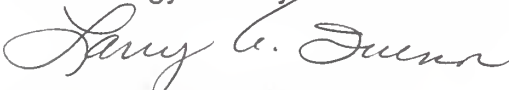
OFF MIKE

FINANCIAL COUNSELING CALLS...are on the rise to the North Dakota Agriculture Mediation Service. Contributing factors are record low livestock prices, disappointing grain prices and uncertainty about farm programs, reports **Mick Kjar** who does morning news, farm news and weather for KVLV-TV in Fargo, ND. On weekday afternoons, he works with **Lyle Romine** (American Ag Network, Fargo, ND). Mick says some of the usually high-producing areas such as the Red River Valley had a difficult year, but some of the prairie lands had great crops.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS...about large scale hog operations are being heard in Iowa town meetings. **Mike Buchanan** (KBIZ, Ottumwa, IA) said he attended a meeting this week where many participants were opposed to large-scale operations because of smell, possible contamination of drinking water and economic survival for small hog farm operations. Mike says the Iowa legislature passed a law this year requiring new livestock operations to meet specific requirements. Cattle producers in his area are watching the weather and feed supply situation since there was a smaller corn crop this year. Feed availability and price may be affected.

WORKING ON A FILE SERVER...was not a broadcaster's job in the recent past, but it is today. **Jeff Nalley** (WOMI/WBKR, Owensboro, KY) was helping solve a computer problem at his fully-digital radio station when we called this week. Poultry production by contract farmers continues to expand in his area with two major processors establishing plants about 50 miles apart. Jeff is planning coverage of the Fourth Annual Tri-State Farm Show scheduled January 8, 9 and 10 at Roberts Stadium (indoor arena) in Evansville, IN.

MISSOURI LISTENERS...in Carrollton and Kansas City (KMZU, KAOL and WHB) will soon hear more of **Miles Carter** as he returns to full-time broadcasting with colleague **Paul Pippert**. A third member of their team, **Jay Turitt**, is leaving later this month. Miles says they depend on digital technology heavily because of enhanced quality and capability for their programs.



LARRY A. QUINN, Director
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Communications
Room 1618-S
Washington, DC 20250-1300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300